

PLAN4BLUE

newsletter

NEWSLETTER 2, OCTOBER 2018

MARITIME SPATIAL PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMIES

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Our work continues - From Gulf of Finland wide Blue Economy Scenarios to Case studies on cross-border marine activities

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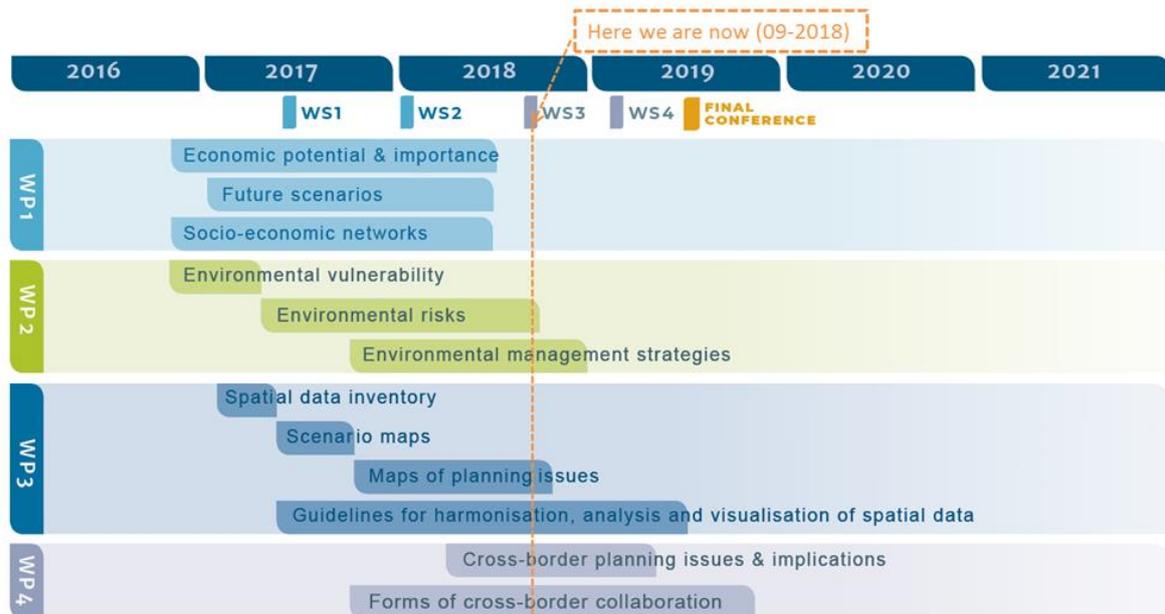
Plan4Blue is now proceeding with the second phase of the project: moving from finalizing the Gulf of Finland and Archipelago Sea Blue Economy Future Scenarios (WP1) to discussing the status and future of more specific topics relevant for maritime spatial planning in the region (WP4). The topics selected for more detailed analysis and development are pelagic fishery, Marine Natura 2000 areas in MSP and shipping between Finland and Estonia.

Throughout the project implementation, Plan4Blue has brought together large group of experts and authorities in workshops, surveys, questionnaires and meetings. Through this continuous collaborative work, the scope of the project has also sharpened. Read more about the updated work descriptions and find out what results to expect in the coming months in this [Prezi presentation](#).

Below are short summaries on how different work packages have progressed during the previous year and a half.

<p>WP1 Potential for sustainable Blue Economies</p>	<p>WP1 has analyzed economic statistics, sectoral strategies and cross-border networks to develop understanding of the key maritime activities and their economy in the area. Another part of the work package has been the Blue Economy Future Scenarios, in which a Delphi-expert panel and workshops have played a crucial role, and they are soon to be finalized.</p> <p>To share the message of the project's diverse economic and future science analysis, collaboration with visual designers is currently being kicked off! <i>Read more about the scenarios in this newsletter.</i></p>
<p>WP2 Environmental management</p>	<p>WP2 has produced an environmental vulnerability assessment for the project area. They have continued developing the assessment further in order to develop a risk assessment methodology, which is the second step of the work package. In addition, the work package has been developing two tools for maritime spatial planners: a GIS tool to share the results of previously mentioned assessments and a set of <i>booklets</i> focusing on one hand to different sectors and human pressures to marine nature and on other hand to important marine species and habitats. <i>Read more about the GIS tool and the booklets in this newsletter.</i></p>
<p>WP3 Spatial analysis and mapping</p>	<p>WP3 supports the work of other work packages and develops different spatial presentation and analyzing methodologies. WP3 has so far for instance identified relevant spatial data sets for maritime spatial planning, supported others in map production and further developed the methodologies for presenting future scenarios by spatial means. <i>Read more about the maps of future multi-sector development in this newsletter.</i></p>
<p>WP4 Cross-border MSP issues and implications</p>	<p>WP4 has started to work on two issues: 1) enhancing cross-border collaboration in MSP in the region (between Finland and Estonia), and 2) conducting case studies on marine activities that have relevance from both maritime spatial planning and cross-border perspectives. As a starting point WP4 uses the future scenario work, and dives into certain topics in more detail. These topics were co-identified with Finnish and Estonian MSP planners/authorities to be significant when planning the future of the Gulf of Finland and Archipelago Sea areas. <i>Read more about the MSP planners' meetings in this newsletter.</i></p>

All already published reports and other material is available on the Plan4Blue website's [Publications page](#). Plan4Blue has actively participated in various types of events from scientific conferences to national MSP events. Project experts have presented project and its results to various audiences from academia to practitioners. Some of the events you can find listed on the Plan4Blue website, under [Events and meetings](#).



Project work packages and activities on a timeline and where we are at the moment (09/2018)

Read more about the Plan4Blue future events from the end of this newsletter. We'd love to see you at our events! If you are interested in our work and want to participate, please contact our project coordinator Riku, riku.varjopuro@ymparisto.fi

*This newsletter is one of the main channels
to follow the progress of Plan4Blue!*

> [Read all newsletters](#)

Make yourself familiar with the alternative scenarios for Blue Growth

Riitta Pöntynen, leader of WP1, University of Turku, Centre for Maritime Studies, riitta.pontynen@utu.fi

Four future scenarios describe the sea uses of the blue business sectors in the year 2050. They were created based on the views of the major expert stakeholders. These scenarios provide alternative pathways to the future to support the maritime spatial planning (MSP) in the Gulf of Finland and the Archipelago Sea.

Experts were queried about their expectations regarding the future growth potential of four blue economy sectors: energy, maritime cluster, tourism, culture and services for leisure activities, and blue bioeconomy and sub-sea resources.

The experts considered attitudes, conditions and trends of global economy, and environmental regulations and policies as the most important drivers for the development of the blue economy.

THE FOUR ALTERNATIVE SCENARIOS FOR BLUE GROWTH IN THE SECTORS OF ENERGY, MARITIME, TOURISM AND BLUE BIOECONOMY & SUBSEA.

SUSTAINABILITY ABOVE ALL!	UNLIMITED GROWTH	SUSTAINABILITY DILEMMA	VIRTUAL REALITY
The most desirable future regarding the sustainable uses of marine resources	Worst case scenario	Continuation of the current state - business as usual, quantitative changes	Extensively digitalized future with sustainable and unsustainable developments

Read more about the [alternative futures in 2050](#), and which issues and steps would lead to them!

The futures studies methods were used in creating the scenarios. A total of 107 experts from the different fields of the blue economy have participated in the different stages of creating the scenarios: either responded to questionnaires, attended the scenario workshops or gave an interview on the future of the blue economy. They represent both the public and private sector within the project area from Estonia and Finland.

Jump into cross border conversation on map-based platform PGIS

Robert Aps, Leader of WP2, University of Tartu, Estonian Marine Institute, robert.aps@ut.ee

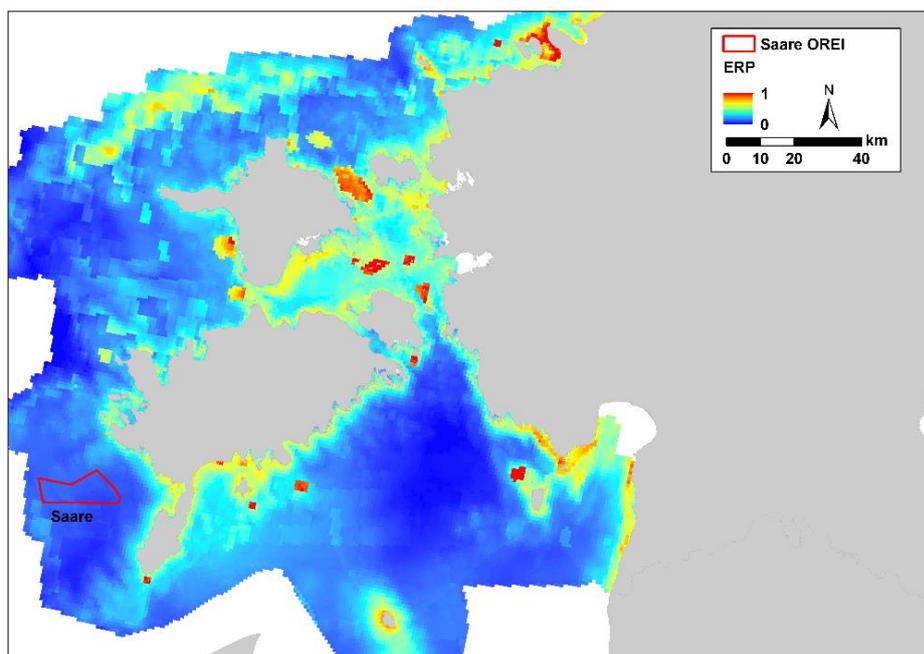
Soon there will be a new possibility for interested parties to discuss maritime activities and their location. The PGIS platform includes spatial data and background information about vulnerable marine nature and the human-induced impacts that the environment is facing.

The aim is to involve different stakeholders in the marine spatial planning (MSP) process by using the PGIS platform as a basis for a fact-based discussion about environmental vulnerability and the risks from new or expanding human activities. Spatial data in the PGIS platform can be used as tool for discussion when planning new human uses in the marine areas.

For example the cruise companies, fishery and maritime tourism associations, energy companies and environmental NGOs can use the PGIS argumentation maps and the voting methodology based on the pair-wise comparison of planning options to enable the planners and stakeholders to express their preferences about maritime space allocation even without having to contribute messages. This allows for a quick way to see how many participants 'agree' or 'disagree' with a certain message or suggested MSP solution.

The participatory PGIS platform exceptionally supports cross-border communication in several occasions, especially the maritime spatial planning processes in Finland and Estonia.

The PGIS platform will be published later this year. The PGIS link will be published on the project page: www.syke.fi/projects/Plan4Blue



Potential development area of offshore renewable energy installations (OREI) off the Saaremaa Island in the Baltic Sea (red polygon Saare OREI) together with the map of environmental cumulative risk profile.

Illuminating valuable marine nature and human impacts with set of booklets!

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The Plan4Blue project provides a useful and practical glance to marine nature and sea use with easily accessible booklets. They are designed for planners and stakeholders to support the marine spatial planning process.

The booklets present important species and habitats as well as specially protected endangered species and harmful alien species. They also introduce the potential environmental impacts of important marine sectors, e.g. marine traffic, energy and coastal tourism, on marine wildlife.

Various human activities and sea use forms may disturb marine species directly or change their living conditions by modifying the habitat. If you want to develop sea use in a sustainable way, you have to understand the impact chain from human activities to changing ecosystems. Therefore you need to pay attention to marine species and habitats and their vulnerabilities.

Plan4Blue will present and visualize human activities of selected important marine sectors, their pressures and potential impacts to the marine environment for the use of marine spatial planners. The project will also illuminate common pressure pathways and impacts from several sectors to marine environment at sea or in coastal areas.



Archipelago sea, Öro island. Photo: Juuso Haapaniemi, Metsähallitus 2015

PLAN4BLUE scenario work indicates areas of future multi-sector development

Harri Tolvanen, leader of WP3, University of Turku, harri.tolvanen@utu.fi

WP3 produced a map, which indicates the areas where the blue economy sectors show most growth potential in the PLAN4BLUE project area. The map is based on the expert opinions collected in the on-line surveys and expert workshops of WP1.

Experts were queried about their expectations regarding the future growth potential of four blue economy sectors: renewable energy production, tourism, blue bioeconomy, and aquaculture and sub-sea resources. In the workshops and on-line surveys, the experts were asked to indicate the location of each potential growth case. The process resulted in hundreds of locations as points, lines and areas. This spatial information was processed and analysed in WP3 Spatial analysis of socio-economic interactions to produce maps of expected growth, one for each of the four blue economy sectors.

The information was analysed further to assess the development of the blue economy as a whole. For this, the sector-wise spatial data from the expert input were combined, and presented in one map. In practice, the indicated locations of each of the four sectors were brought together, and an intensity map of all indicated locations of new or growing activities was created (Figure). The areas which appear as high intensity have densely grouped indications of potential growth in several sectors of blue economy. The map can be used as an indication about which regions will likely have a higher demand for spatial planning for the next 30 years.

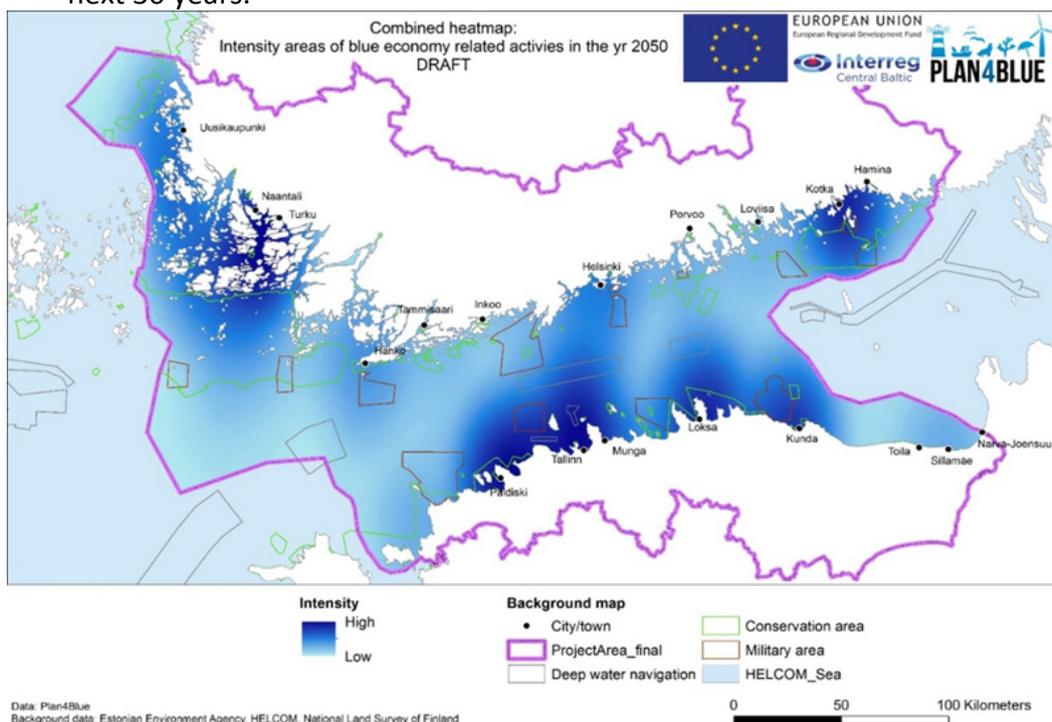


Figure. Intensity map showing the density of expert indications of growing activities in all four sectors of blue growth

Maritime Spatial Planning processes are moving forward in Finland and Estonia

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In Finland and Estonia official Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP) processes are proceeding. Although there are strong similarities in the countries outline and schedule for the plan, there are still differences on how MSP is done and what form it will eventually have. In Finland MSP is a regionally led planning process with not legally binding result. On the contrary, in Estonia a state driven process will produce a plan with stronger legal status. How MSP will eventually look like, and in which level of detail it will be made, may also differ between the countries.

Regional Councils moving the process forward in Finland

In Finland MSP is the responsibility of coastal regional councils, which already have a planning mandate that covers the territorial sea. The maritime spatial plan covers both the territorial sea and the exclusive economic zone, but unlike a legally binding regional land use plan, the maritime spatial plan is not a part of the national planning system and it is only a guiding or recommending plan. There will be in total three maritime spatial plans as well as the Åland Islands' maritime spatial plan in Finland.

Currently the coastal regional councils, eight in total, are in the process of collecting background material and conducting studies for the plan preparation through project activities, consultancy services and by revising material compiled for the needs of regional planning. Based on these, drafts for planning targets and planning solutions will be made by the coastal regional councils during 2019. The national MSP website, www.merialuesuunnittelu.fi/en/, includes information about the national MSP and also of the planning areas.

The key aim of this work is to support blue growth and improvements in the state of the sea based on the very strengths of the regions. A starting point for this is identifying the special characteristics of the maritime areas and sectors operating in them, and this is where the additional focus provided by the Plan4Blue-project is most helpful.

Ministry of Finance is leading the Estonian process

The development of the Estonian maritime spatial plan (MSP) was initiated by the order of the Government on 25 May 2017. Before that Estonia had developed two pilot MSPs for Hiiu and Pärnu Counties, adopted respectively in 2016 and 2017. These county level MSPs are planned to be incorporated into the national MSP developed for the whole Estonian marine area, including the internal and territorial sea as well as the EEZ.

The MSP is developed by the Estonian Ministry of Finance with help of the consulting company Hendrikson & Ko. The outline of the MSP and strategic environmental assessment has been prepared and discussed in public hearings in spring and summer 2018. The 1st draft planning solution is planned to be developed by the beginning of 2019. The aim is to have the MSP adopted by April 2020.

All materials related to the MSP, including the webmap containing all available information on the Estonian marine area, are available on a special MSP website mereala.hendrikson.ee/en.html. There is also a crowdsourcing map where everybody can insert proposals and comments related to the MSP and a possibility to join the mailing list to get news about the MSP process.

Spatial planning of Estonian maritime areas addresses economic prosperity, social well-being and environmental targets at the same time and balances their respective needs. The Estonian maritime spatial plan will be the strategic basis for all decisions regulating sea usage.

Recipe for fluent cross-border cooperation: exchange regularly and be alert to emerging issues

Hanna Nieminen and Riku Varjopuro, Finnish Environment Institute SYKE. riku.varjopuro@ymparisto.fi

Planners meeting in Tallinn

The Plan4Blue project invited planning practitioners and authorities responsible for maritime spatial planning (MSP) from both Estonia and Finland for a meeting in Tallinn, Estonia on 16.11.2017. This was the first time such a large group of maritime spatial planning authorities and planners from Finland and Estonia met and shared their views on MSP in the region.

Aim of the meeting was to kick-off cross-border collaboration in the Gulf of Finland and Archipelago Sea areas between the two countries. Both Finland and Estonia are in the beginning of their first MSP planning cycle, and now it is time to think about how to collaborate in more detail. And there is also a lot to learn from each other.

The meeting participants constituted the regular exchange of information as the key rationale for cross-border cooperation in the region. Any pressing issues that would require special attention were not identified. It was agreed that the cross-border cooperation would be reactive – to “take it as it comes”, but remain alert to emerging topics that need transnational attention.



A timeline exercise was used to map the connections between national MSP processes and project activities. Project coordinator Riku Varjopuro presenting concluding remarks on how and when Plan4Blue project results can provide input to the Finnish and Estonian MSP processes.

As different fora and projects for transnational collaboration on the topic already exist, Plan4Blue meetings will serve as a forum especially for topical issues in the area. In addition, planning authorities suggested that the project will focus especially on cross-border issues. We have already reacted to this and launched work on three cross-border topics – pelagic fishing, shipping, and marine nature conservation (focus on Natura2000 areas)!

The project will organize more occasions for the planners to meet.

- Read more of [the first MSP planners meeting](#)

Plan4Blue future events

Second Plan4Blue Planners meeting

- Late 2018/early 2019, tbc
- Event for Finnish and Estonian MSP authorities and planners to meet

International workshop (WS 4): Cross-border topics and MSP

- February 2019, tbc
- The workshop is part of WP4 work on cross-border marine activities and MSP and continues the activities started in the third workshop that was held in Turku in September 4-5, 2018. The focus of the second WP4 workshop will be on cross-sectoral and cross-border implications of the case studies, and what national MSP processes can learn from the case studies.

Plan4Blue Final conference

- May 2019, tbc
- The final conference invites a broad range of actors to discuss the findings of Plan4Blue and the future of MSP collaboration in the Gulf of Finland and Archipelago Sea areas.